Observation

15. Implementation of the Housing & Shelter Upgradation in towns with less than one lakh population.

Reaction of the Government

The Scheme is applicable in all urban settlements with population between one lakh and 20 lakhs with the exception of NE Hill States and Sikkim and simlar towns in the hill districts of other States (as defined by the Planning Commission) and newly industrialising townships. However, the Ministry considers the request from States on a case to case basis for permitting them the implementation of this component in cities with population below one lakh. Recenty this Ministry has given permission for taking up 22 towns in Andhra Pradesh and 7 towns in West Bengal.

Observation

16. State level Monitoring Units not set-up.

Reaction of the Government

The report mentions that State Level Monitoring Committees have been set-up only in 10 States. However, according to the information available in the Ministry, all States/UTs implementing NRY have since set up monitoring agencies.

Total Cultivated Land Area

*99. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI :
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total cultivated land area in the country during the last three years respectively ;

(b) what has been the corresponding area under cultivation of coarse foodgrain during these years; whether there has been any reduction in such area ; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) The total cultivated land area in the country during the last three years ending 1990-91 (latest available) is as follows :-

(Million hectare.)

Year	Cultivated land area
1988-89	155.9
1989-90	155.4
1990-91	156.0

(b) and (c) The cultivated area under coarse foodgrain crops during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 was estimated as 38.68, 37.69 and 36.32 million hectares respectively. The cultivated area under coarse foodgrains has shown declining trend over the years. The main reason for decline in area under coarse foodgrains is the expansion of irrigated area with which farmers shifted their area to other high yielding and more remunerative crops.

Increase in the prices of Aluminium

*100. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether London Metal Exchange (LME) price of aluminium has increased considerably since January, 1992 ;

(b) whether increased exports has created an acute shortage of steel in the country ; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to encourage domestic steel producers to cater to the needs of domestic industrial units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The London Metal Exchange (LME) price of Aluminium has risen to an average of US $ 1505 in July, 1994 from an average of US $ 1177.07 in January, 992.

(b) Due to increased exports by domestic producers, there was no shortage of steel materials in the country during 1993-94.

(c) Government has taken a number of steps to increase the production of steel in the country. Modernisation and expansion of public sector steel Plants has been taken up. Government have also adopted various policy measures to facilitate and encourage the creation of additional steel production capacities in the private sector which are as follows :—

(i) removal of iron and steel from the list of industries reserved for the public sector ;

(ii) exemption of iron and steel industry from the provisions of compulsory licensing ;

(iii) inclusion of iron and steel in the list of high priority industry for purposes of foreign investments ;

(iv) de-regulation of pricing and distribution of iron and steel ;

(v) reduction of duty on import of capital goods ;

(vi) liberalisation of import and export policy.

Violation of rules by supply department of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

516. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation in connection with the alleged gross violation in implementation of Rules of Government of India on Labour Cooperatives by the Supply Department of Andaman and Nicobar Islands ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to stop such violation of rules ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As reported by Government of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the allegations contained in the representation were examined by them and found to be baseless.

Shakahari Movement in the country

517. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Shakahari movement is gaining momentum in the country ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 75 per cent of the people of the country are vegetarians and 90 percent are against killing of animals ; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to make the movement a success ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) No such information is available.